

# JOSEPH TOMMASI: HIS LAST INTERVIEW -

# 'Cops are political soldiers'

JEANNE CORDOVA

In our first exclusive interview (March 21) with Joe Tommasi, the Nazi leader claimed the provisional wing of his group (National Socialist Liberation Front) was responsible for the Feb. 2 teargassing of the Rosenberg rally and the Feb. 4 bombing of the headquarters of the Socialist Worker's Party.

Our second much-delayed interview with Joe Tommasi took place in an innocuous coffeshop in El Monte. In March Tommasi canceled the second half of a scheduled two-part interview because he was under heavy surveillance by the LAPD and the Criminal Conspiracy Section following the bombings. This time he declined to meet at the Free Press office because he didn't want to "run into any political enemies."

Understandably more cautious, the Nazi leader refused further comment on the SWP and Rosenberg incidents, noting, "You can't be too careful... you know the Grand Jury is in town." (Grand juries can subpoena and force testimony without specific criminal evidence.)

Asked what "projects" his group was currently pursuing, Tommasi referred to the April attempted bombing of the Midnight Special Bookstore as "interesting." Speculating that "someone probably just wanted to practice" (bombmaking?), Tommasi quickly moved conversation to our scheduled topic, "The Nazis and the Police."

## 'Average Cop Digs Us'

Tommasi says the Left's charge that the police don't want to bust him for the February bombings is "bullshit." "They want to bust me like mad," the Nazi laughed, referring specifically to Sgt. Ray Callahan (Criminal Conspiracy Section) who has "hassled" him several times. CCS says it has put "thousands of man hours" on the SWP bombing case but has been unable to uncover any real clues leading to the bombers. Tommasi confirmed, "They (CCS) don't have a thing to go on."

I asked him about his group's general relationship with the police. Tommasi drew distinctions between the cop on the street and the bureaucracy. "The average cop, I think, digs us," he admitted. "The higher-ups, anything above a Lieutenant, especially CCS, wants to nail our ass to the wall. They're political soldiers."

Illustrating the difference, the Nazi leader recounted a recent story of one of his party members being picked up with a shotgun in his car by the Hollenbeck P.D. According to Tommasi, when the Hollenbeck station found the individual belonged to NSLF, they "got friendly and asked, 'How's Joe?'"

Continuing his classification, Tommasi explained, "The average cop who has to do the dirty work feels just like us; he doesn't see himself as part of the system. But you have a

government and a power structure, and that power structure has an army, the others (CCS, higher officers) are the generals.

In his high school days Tommasi wanted to be a police officer. He turned from this peace-keeping vocation after politically maturing and realizing, "You can't be against the system and be one of her soldiers."

Conversely, Tommasi described the relationship between his former affiliate, the American Nazi Party, and the police as "very good." Tommasi's group originally split with its mother organization in January of 1974 because of a power struggle between himself and the ANP national leadership.

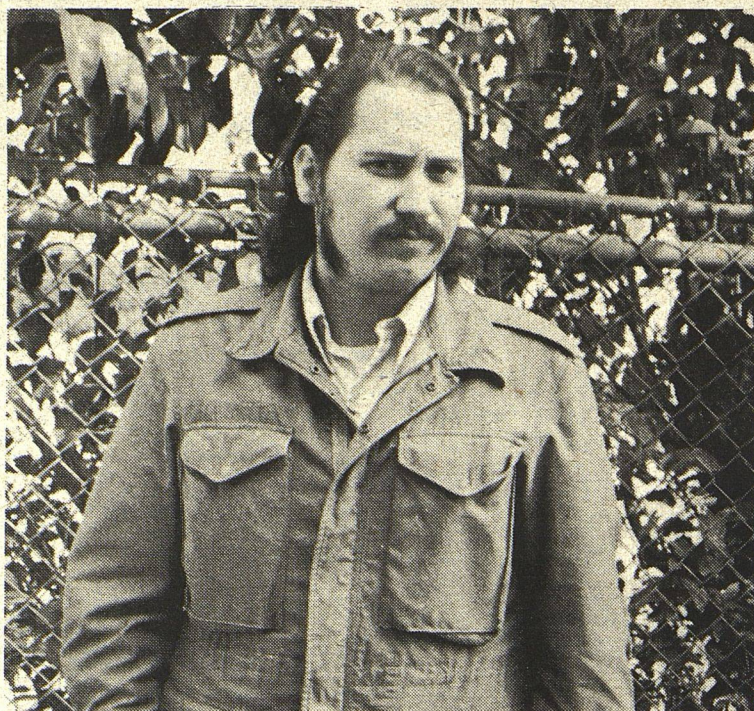
According to Tommasi, they also disagreed on a number of political points: "They (ANP) feel they can come to power through legal means, so they never do anything illegal, they want the police on their side." Splitting from this philosophy, the NSLF believes an armed revolution is inevitable, and they are not remiss in taking up arms toward that end.

Tommasi says when he was the captain of the El Monte branch of the ANP, they had an "understanding" with the local police force. The agreement was, "I wouldn't provoke trouble in El Monte and they wouldn't go out of their way to look for us."

Tommasi verifies there "probably were" a number of party members who worked for the police. Six weeks ago East Coast news sources reported that Roy Frankhauser, a former associate of ANP founder George Lincoln Rockwell, was an FBI informant. After leaving Rockwell in 1964, Frankhauser joined the Minutemen and later the Ku Klux Klan. His long-time role as an infiltrator in right- and left-wing groups was discovered in June when Frankhauser was arrested for possession of dynamite and attempted to get off by calling upon his employer for help.

According to Tommasi, Frankhauser "had a clearance pass from the Internal Security Commission or some high intelligence operation" to go into Canada and spy on Arab guerrilla groups suspected of plotting assassinations of Zionist leaders in America. Most recently Frankhauser had been infiltrating left-wing groups. Tommasi also blamed Frankhauser for the 1965 murder (officially labeled suicide) of Dan Burros, former Nazi Party member whom the New York Times exposed as a Jew.

Most recently, it was Frankhauser, says Tommasi, who informed the New Jersey police that John Duffy, former ANP national organizer and now member of the NSLF, was carrying weapons out of Delaware into New Jersey. Duffy, who arranged the Free Press's first interview with Tommasi, was arrested in January of this year. The charge has since



been reduced. Duffy is out on bail and here working with NSLF.

On the international level, the Nazi leader went on to deny charges that former Gestapo officers are associated with the international police organization, INTERPOL. "I was flabbergasted to hear that," Tommasi spoke incredulously of Senator Joseph Montoya's January 1975 request for congressional hearings on the issue: "If you want to know the truth, we're scared shitless of INTERPOL."

Noting that ANP's attitude toward the international police was also one of "continual concern," Tommasi maintained INTERPOL has arrested and deported party members in Germany for nothing more than wearing swastika pins.

The Nazi leader says INTERPOL backs the controversial United Nations "genocide" proposal which, if passed, would give INTERPOL a mandate to arrest all persons who advocate any kind of genocide. Versions of this bill have been passed in Canada and England. Collin Jordan, head of the Nazi Party in England in the early sixties, was jailed for two years under Britain's race relations act.

Speaking of the grand jury and growing police power in this country, Tommasi analyzed: "We used to have police repression. What we're seeing now is the development of a computerized police state. In the war movies they make a big deal out of Germans asking for identification: 'Your papers, please.' Now we're stopped on the street and asked for two or three pieces of I.D., and we're not even in a war."

"What you're seeing now is a system that is aware that the possibility of revolution exists. The sixties taught them what can happen when people get their shit together, no matter if those people are from the Right or Left. So now the system's taking steps to insure their stability."

Demonstrating cooptative tactics in law-enforcement, Tommasi imitated a "Pancho

Gonzalez" sheriff appealing to young Chicano men: "Eh, man, you join with us, help smash all these li-i-i-tle groups in your barrio." Sounding much like the revolutionary he claims he is, the Nazi leader concluded, "You don't have to be a black or Mexican to see what's going on in this country. The system's in big trouble."

Summarizing his relationship with law-enforcement, Tommasi clarified: "I wish INTERPOL was on our side; I wish we were being bought off by the police; we wouldn't be having all these money problems. I hear they pay pretty good."

Money is the big problem for NSLF now. Tommasi was forced to close his El Monte headquarters, The New Order Bookstore, last May because the landlord wouldn't renew the lease when he found out who the lessees were. This closure has made reorganizing and establishing a new home top priority. They are looking to open a national headquarters in El Monte and a second branch in Venice.

Why Venice, home of a thousand leftist labels and groups?

"We view Venice as a hardcore red area culturally and politically," Tommasi explained. "It's bound to stir our enemies, but we know there's a lot of sympathy out there hidden within the white female population mostly." Second-in-Command David Rust verified: "The white girls are tired of getting raped."

Asked if they wouldn't be happier moving to Glendale, where they'd be neighbors with the local KKK which makes its base in the redneck suburb, Tommasi pointed out, "We think it better to go into an area where a lot of people hate us and a lot will love us, rather than go where no one gives a shit."

In NSLF's analysis, Glendale doesn't know or care if you're a Communist or a Bircher, just as long as you don't rock the boat and disturb their business community. Evidently the Nazis think they will be busier and more successful recruiting in a town where the boat is rocked

so often no one is unshakable. Tommasi pictorialized the Venice Branch: "We'll have a 24-hour armed guard and a half-dozen of us living on the premises."

## 'Corner Drug Store Gang'

A move to Venice brings the Nazis closer to the Fairfax home of the Jewish Defense League. Tommasi, however, denied the new proximity to their traditional foe had any bearing on NSLF's move. The Nazi likened JDL to a "corner drug store gang" and called them "politically insignificant."

Referring to Meir Kahane's recent more moderate positions (see JDL story, this issue), Tommasi said, "Even their founder has abandoned them. They wouldn't be alive today if Dylan hadn't given them money."

JDL spokesperson Barry Krugal confirmed that folksinger Bob (Paul Zimmerman) Dylan, "Texas Jew Boy" Kinky Friedman and comedian Don Rickles have all made contributions to his organization. Krugal clarified that Dylan's contribution, made to their New York headquarters, was received several years ago.

But NSLF's move to the beach will wait until next summer. Right now Tommasi is "importing" followers from across the country to El Monte to raise money for a new "very professional" national headquarters. Almost a dozen such imports are working and giving 75 per cent of their salaries to the new building which they hope to open this fall.

[ED. NOTE: The following was originally scheduled to run as Part II of the Joe Tommasi interview. Due to Tommasi's untimely death, however, we have decided to run the entire interview in this issue.]

Taking their cue from the left, white power groups in Los Angeles and other countries are beginning to actualize the principle of strength in numbers. Joe Tommasi explains how and why he is building alliances among extreme right groups.

On May 17, Tommasi's NSLF and the local KKK formed a "united front" and counter demonstrated against a Boston pro-integration rally held in downtown Los Angeles. Calling themselves "The Boston Revolutionary Union" (the labels are all beginning to sound alike these days), the two groups joined to express "solidarity with the white resistance in Boston."

Asked if this alliance marked an ongoing relationship, Tommasi explained the KKK in Glendale was not a significant political organization (scratch one). "They're just a bunch of guys who know what they like and what they don't like... but not really political," the Nazi said, criticizing the small motorcycle gang that operates out of Bart's Cycle Shop in Glendale. Tommasi described KKK leader Bart West as "a real good friend."

## Canadian Racists

Of more significance, (please turn to page 13)